

**Nutrient Issues and w/ Hood Canal Emphasis
Scoping and Design Project
Draft Charter**

Priority: Prevent Nutrients and Pathogen Pollution Caused by Human and Animal Wastes

Looking Ahead - EPA's near future efforts will include more concerted efforts to work with the state, local jurisdictions, and tribes in sensitive and high value estuaries to reduce pathogen and nutrient contamination through both pollution loading/source control analysis and assisting with implementation of corrective actions. EPA will also work with federal fish hatcheries and other federal facilities to reduce nutrient discharges to sensitive and high value waters.

Objectives:

Short Term (2006-2007):

- Successful implementation and documentation of Hood Canal demonstration and early corrective action projects.
- *development of quality assurance plans for water quality model development and source assessment studies (2006)*
- *development and testing of water quality model (2006-2007)*
- *peer review and model documentation report (2007)*
- identification of options for strategic recovery targets for improvement of Hood Canal water quality and *a logic flow map* for tracking environmental outcomes for the Hood Canal low dissolved oxygen problem.

Mid-term (2007-2009):

- technical integration and alignment of analytical models and methods to maintain their utility for both Clean Water Act and other water quality recovery applications.
- monitoring strategies are clearly established and integrate source control and loading assessment activities at both localized and basin scales.
- *source assessment with estimates of (1) natural conditions and impacts of pollution on dissolved oxygen, and (2) fecal coliform pollutions sources and transport*
- *development of technical information necessary to support a Hood Canal TMDL for dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform*
- active and aware project management support for source control analyses, local corrective actions, and monitoring projects.

- updated tribal general permit for fish hatchery operations for review and issuance – Office of Water
- informed capital infrastructure decisions that anticipate regulated reduction of nutrient discharges to waters entering Hood Canal

Long-term (2009-2011):

- *Watershed restoration plans (e.g., TMDL implementation plan) provide guidance and priorities for Loading and source control analysis are established and have informed both near term and long term pollution prevention and control efforts*

Roles and Responsibilities:

Staff Leads: Ben Cope and Suzanne Skadowski

This role and contributions to the team will be acknowledged in FY2006 performance agreement (and beyond).

EPA Scoping and Approach Design Team: Suzanne Skadowski, Ben Cope, OW hatchery permit lead staff, Michael Rylko, Alan Moomaw.

The scoping design team will advise and assist staff lead in forming recommendations and completing charter tasks by ensuring that the strategy is connected to, complementary to and coordinated with other relevant Region 10, federal, state and local programs that are affected or have corrective responsibilities. Individual staff role and contributions to the team will be acknowledged in FY2006 performance agreements (and beyond as necessary).

Executive Sponsor: Tom Eaton

The executive sponsor will shape policy directions and secure and maintain office and program level support for successful completion of charter tasks (outlined below). The executive sponsor will also represent EPA's work on the tasks identified below at internal and interagency management/executive forums.

Puget Sound Coordinator: Michael Rylko

The Puget Sound Coordinator will assist EPA staff lead and design team to successfully complete tasks. The coordinator will work to ensure both cross program and interagency support for completing tasks and implementing recommendations.

Timeframes: Scoping - November 2005 to June 2006
Implementation – June 2006 to June 2009

Team Task Overview:

Track 1 – Loading and source control analysis

Track 2 – Implementation of early corrective actions (urgent and obvious and demonstrations)

Track 3 - Implementation of corrective actions through watershed protection/ restoration implementation plan and/or TMDL or NPDES load reductions.

Underlying Assumptions:

Work will be conducted in coordination with appropriate external teams, coordinating forums, and cooperative workplans. Key EPA programs will also be sought and will work to coordinate their efforts through this EPA Priority Issue Team.

Accountability:

- Team charters will be accepted by PS PP Board, designated staff, and identified managers by the end of March 2006.
- Strategies and workplans through 2009 will be presented to PS PP for their endorsement by end of June 2006.
- Staff and manager roles and contributions to the charter tasks will be acknowledged in individual performance agreements.

External Input: Critical to the success of this Charter is input and involvement federal and state agencies via interagency topic team consisting of
.....in an integrated manner that is protective of local resources.